(The Painful Thread of Life)

Some after her committal the old lady wrote Dr. Daniel Clark a note which has been preserved in her file. She begins her rather fragmentary note rather decorously, as one might expect a "refined" and "highly educated" Victorian lady to do:

> I am aware this is irrelevant except perhaps to you in your Profession[,] But my Mind Body or Estate are not my own to preserve or retain where it appears to my mind right or wrong.

In a letter from the Asylum Cottage, dated March 27, 1895, she discusses the events leading up to her committal. Again she begins rather decorously, explaining the reason for the letter:

> Yesterday in your walking visit I did not like to detain you nor could I say intelligently what I need in the presence of other Patients.

What follows is not very decorous. She relates how she asked Dr. Clark to admit her some five months before her husband's death, possibly implying some responsibility on his part for what followed. After he refused to admit her (for what would have been the second time), she returned home where her husband gave her "a small room that contained two single beds."

She admits that "I feared him and through him my family they being so ill." She slept in one bed and her daughter in the other; the husband possibly alternated between them. Fearing her husband as she did, "I could not have remained 5 months in that small space," without "implicit Faith in his Person Mind and Circumstances," especially considering all the persons he brought home with him, who were "singular and unusual."

She finally comes to what she "needs," which is Dr. Clark's "Advice as a Physician." She also argues that merely asking for it, proves a degree of sanity, since she had to have been at least "well enough in mind" to know that she was ill. She describes the symptoms of her illness in great detail.